REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. No claims have been canceled or added. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 20 and 41 stand allowed. Claims 16 and 19 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21-30, 32-38 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on European patent application no. EP 0424071 of Peckham ("Peckham"). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Peckham in view of U.S. Patent no. 6,480,823 of Zhao et al. Claims 8, 12, 13, 31 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Peckham in view of Japanese patent document no. JP 403245700 of Megata et al.

Claims 3 and 4 were objected to as being of improper dependent form. These claims have been amended to address the objection.

Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections. The amendments to the claims are made only to correct minor informalities. The amendments are not made in response to the rejections or to comply with any statutory requirement of patentability, since no such amendments are believed to be necessary.

Referring to claim 1, the present invention pertains to a method which includes identifying an endpoint of an utterance based on <u>the intonation</u> of the utterance. The Office cites Peckham as disclosing such a technique. Peckham discloses identifying endpoints based on the <u>pitch</u> of an utterance, not the intonation. Pitch is not the same as intonation. Pitch is the <u>frequency</u> of sound at a given point in time. See Peckham at p. 7, lines 23-27. Intonation represents <u>the changes over time</u> in the fundamental frequency of an utterance, as is well-known to those skilled in the arts of linguistics and speech recognition technology. This standard meaning of "intonation" is clearly stated in Applicant's specification at p. 9, lines 29-31, and is also echoed by the two attachments enclosed with this response: 1) definition of "intonation" from "Lexicon of Linguistics" web site at http://www2.let.uu.nl/UiL-OTS/Lexicon; and 2) <u>A Course in Phonetics</u>, p. 99, Peter Ladefoged, University of California, Los Angeles, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 2nd. ed. .

Peckham detects endpoints simply according to <u>whether</u> an input waveform <u>has pitch</u> (as opposed to the waveform not having pitch), <u>not</u> based on how the fundamental frequency <u>changes over time</u> (intonation). See Peckham at p. 3, line 27.

Of course, there is a relationship between pitch and intonation, but this relationship is not symmetrical and, therefore, cannot be said to suggest or provide motivation for the present invention. For example, to the extent that pitch

is defined as the fundamental frequency, the intonation of an utterance could be computed (in a simple implementation) solely from two or more pitch values at separate points in time. However, the converse of this relationship (which is more relevant to the present invention) is not true: Given one or more intonation values of an utterance, and nothing more, one could not necessarily determine any associated pitch value, without additional information.

Therefore, one cannot reasonably conclude that Peckham's disclosure of using pitch to detect an endpoint in any way suggests using intonation to detect an endpoint. Peckham does not disclose or suggest detecting an endpoint of an utterance based on the intonation of the utterance, i.e., based on how the fundamental frequency of the utterance changes over time.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Nonetheless, the following remarks are submitted to potentially expedite prosecution. Applicants' silence regarding any particular dependent claim(s) does not represent agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or waive any argument regarding such claim(s).
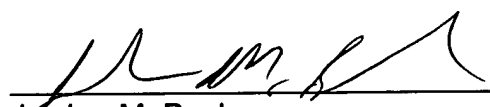
For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: _6/17/03_ _____

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18